

Date	August 9, 2012
Title	WDC Report –Highlights

Agriculture Workforce Skills Panels

The WDC completed the first phase of the Agriculture Workforce Skills Panels with the last panel on Maui meeting on June 6th. Overall, the panels were a great success, attracting over 700 participants to the conferences in Honolulu, Hilo, Kona, Lihue and Kahului. With this phase finished, notes from all the panels are now on display for review on the <http://www.sesphawaii.com/> website.

With the information gathering phase now completed, the next phase involves compiling the notes together and determining both similar issues that span across all of the panels and specific issues that are affecting specific counties. From there, a report will be authored detailing both the issues and specific recommendations. That report is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2012 in time for the 2013 Legislature.

In completing Phase 1, the WDC would like to thank all of the Local Workforce Investment Boards and the Workforce Development Division branch office staff for their assistance at the various forums. The WDC would also like to thank DLIR Director Takamine, also, for his support throughout the Ag Skill Panel process.

WIA State Plan update

The five-year state plan for the Workforce Investment Act and Wagner-Peyser entered into a mandatory 30-day public comment phase on July 3. The draft plan was placed on the state plan website for the public and vested interests in WIA/Wagner-Peyser programs to review and comment on.

With the comment period completed, final draft of the plan will be put forth to the Workforce Development Council for its quarterly meeting in August. Review of the document can be done at <http://dlir.state.hi.us/labor/wdc/stateplan2012/>. Once the language is discussed and changes approved/not approved, the WDC staff will complete and finalize the draft for submission to the United States Department of Labor (“USDOL”) for review and approval. Meanwhile, the USDOL has moved ahead to extend the current state plan, performance measures and waivers for Hawaii until December 30 to allow enough time for approval and implementation.

Office of the Inspector General Audits the WDC’s State Energy Sector Partnership program

For two weeks in June, the WDC-SESP program was one of eight randomly-selected SESP projects chosen by the United States Department of Labor’s Office of the Inspector General’s (“OIG”) office to be audited. Commissioned by the US Congress to evaluate the effectiveness of the SESP grant throughout the United States, OIG staff was housed in the WDC’s conference room during their 2-week evaluation. During the time, they interviewed SESP training participants, state and county administrators and evaluated participant files for completeness.

The auditors expect a report to be delivered to Congress by late August, 2012.

Hawaii Healthcare Transformational Council

As a central component of the New Day in Hawaii agenda, Governor Neil Abercrombie has identified healthcare transformation as a top priority of his administration. The Office of Healthcare Transformation, headed by Beth Giesting, is embarking on the **Hawaii Healthcare Transformation Initiative**. Partners in the initiative includes healthcare providers, government agencies, educational entities and nonprofit healthcare associations, the Workforce Development Council has been named as a member of the Initiative.

Meetings for the Initiative started in March, with the focus on determining priorities in helping to make healthcare more accessible for the people of Hawaii. The Initiative has a goal later this year to convene a healthcare transformation summit, prepare legislative initiatives to assist in the transformation, and continue communication with the public, stakeholders and legislators.

The WDC is part of the Delivery Systems Domain which is looking to design and implement a statewide Community Care team model, including the creation of community care workers and their training.

Collective Impact

The various Collective Impact groups, brought together to address critical sociological issues related to the unemployed and working poor, kupuna, early childhood, foster and at-risk youth and homelessness was paid a visit by Terri O'Brien of Knowledgeworks. Brought through partial funding by the WDC, Terri last visited when the various public-private teams were first formed at the beginning of the year. This time, she helped the teams firm up their mission charters and next steps needed to help determine the greatest need for action in each of the areas. This project, overseen by PHOCUSED, a nonprofit who supports various health and human services, is designed to advise the Governor and other policy leaders on the critical needs of these targeted populations.

Staff from the Workforce Development Council is working with three of the five groups formed: The working poor, At-risk youth and foster youth. Here is an update of each of the groups development:

At-Risk Youth (Staff member: Stan Fichtman): The group has been meeting at the offices of Adult Friends for Youth thanks to the President of AFY Debbie Spencer-Chung. To address the issue of at-risk youth, the group has decided to study truancy at two middle schools, and focus specifically on 8th grade students. According to studies, truancy which starts at around the 8th grade is a indicator of whether the student will eventually be a successful graduate or drop out. The two campuses that will be evaluated is Dole Intermediate and Waianae Middle. It is intended that the evaluation start later this year and continue until May of 2013, by which a needs assessment will be done to address the issues of truancy in the schools.

Foster Youth (Staff member: Ruth Caldwell): With their charter drafted, the Foster Youth group intends to focus on ensuring that youth in foster care are provided with the opportunities, services, and support needed to be successful in post-secondary education and employment. The group currently is looking at becoming more involved in specific foster youth activities (four events each year held by various nonprofits and the Hawaii State Judiciary) to involve 30 foster youth in providing workforce development-specific curricula.

Unemployed and Working Poor (James Hardway): The Unemployed and Working Poor group are currently executing on their plan outlined in their charter that was finalized in June. Their short term goal is that 10% of participants being served by Goodwill Industries of Hawaii and (select other non-profits) are co-enrolled in job training or OJT programs administered by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, City and County of Honolulu, and the Department of Human Services. A longer term goal set by the group states that by Fiscal Year 2014, 20% of Hawaii's working poor and unemployed in job training/employment programs funded by either non-profit or public agencies are enrolled in the University of Hawaii Community College System (UHCC) job training/educational programs. The team's overall plan is to address the need to increase the skill set of residents throughout the state, in which 61.3% of the Honolulu County workforce is below the middle skills level but are ready to get increased skills through education if opportunities are provided.

New Kumu Ao Eligible Training Provider (ETP) website launched!

During the last quarter, WDC staff has worked to re-design and launch the ETP website. The ETP site is for the state list of approved training providers and training programs that the One-Stops will fund if the applicant is eligible. Individuals can now use this website (<http://dlir.state.hi.us/labor/etp/>) to find training programs that, if eligible, can at least be partially funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The site also provides details, links and contact information for the WIA ETP program in Hawaii. One of the goals in developing the site is to make it easier for individuals and providers to both look up existing programs approved as an ETP, and to sign up new programs.

GRANT NEWS:

State Energy Sector Partnership (“SESP”)

The SESP program through the WDC continues to develop appropriate trainings for vulnerable populations. Those programs include the following:

- A Vet-to-Farmer program in partnership with the State Department of Hawaiian Homelands projected to begin in August 2012.
- Through a partnership with Hawaii’s Department of Public Safety, the Solar Training Institute, and WorkNet, the Waiawa Solar Energy Training Program was completed in May 2012, where pre-release offenders were trained in general construction, solar PV and thermal installation.

The SESP program completed its tour of the Sustainable Agriculture Skill Panels with meetings on Kauai on May 11, 2012 and Maui on June 6, 2012, which focused on training needs and employment possibilities in agriculture.

The SESP program participated in a number of outreach programs in the quarter, including:

- The Leeward Community College Job Fair, the UHCC Renewable Energy LEED Summit, and
- DBEDT’s Build & Buy Green Expo and continued working with sub recipients to recruit participants in SESP Hawaii’s priority target populations.

WDC staff also conducted On-site Monitoring of sub recipients, completing most of the required monitoring within this quarter. Monitoring of program performance and expenditures are of highest priority for WDC staff, reinforced by the recent audit of Hawaii’s SESP grant program conducted by the USDOL Office of Inspector General during June 2012 and facilitated by WDC.

In addition, working with its sub recipients, the WDC has shifted efforts from recruitment to a more focused plan to increase placement through employer engagement and events such as the upcoming SESP Job Fair and Sustainability Workshops for Hawaii’s business leaders. The sustainability workshops are being held on Maui (July 25), Kona (August 1), Oahu (August 8) and Kauai (August 10), the workshops are for business leaders in Hawaii who are interested in incorporating principals of sustainability into their organizations. The seminar’s are organized by Scott Cooney, Principal at the Green Business Owner, a company that provides training to companies who need to ramp up operations to be more green. The seminars are funded in part by the State Energy Sector Partnership grant.

Lastly, the SESP program filed for a no-cost extension for the grant, pushing the completion of the grant from January to June 2013. This is to allow enough time for sub recipients to complete trainings and provide enough time to prepare documents required for the closeout of the grant.

HRSA Healthcare Workforce Planning

Activities under the Healthcare Planning grant have been winding down this last quarter. With the issuing of the healthcare planning report at http://hawaii.gov/labor/wdc/HealthcareReport_final_web.pdf, staff has been working on videos of healthcare professionals – the last deliverable of the grant. The first video (which can be seen at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9tyPGcniHE&list=PLD901540EE261F145&feature=plpp_play_all) of Dr. Josh Green, Emergency Room physician and State Senator, has been produced. In this video, Dr. Green talks about such things as how one finds the right healthcare field, and how is it to work as a doctor in rural areas of Hawaii. Other videos of other healthcare practitioners will be produced and shown through the DLIR video account (DLIR Videos) on YouTube as produced.

USDOL Disability Employment Initiative (“DEI”)

With Ruth Caldwell, the statewide project director of the DEI grant on maternity leave since giving birth on July 26, Stan Fichtman from the WDC has stepped in to cover for Ruth until the end of August.

The DEI moved forward with holding a kick off meeting at AtRC in Iwilei on May 21 with representatives of the Disability Resource Coordinators (“ORCS”) and Business Relations Inclusion Coordinators (“BRICS”) covering the counties of Maui and Hawaii. The meeting was designed to start the process of implementing DEI programs in the chosen counties as well as implement the state’s approval to use Ticket-To-Work Employment Network program into the DEI.

Local areas, as well as the statewide DEI program, will be receiving a visit from Social Dynamics, a contractor hired by the US Department of Labor to evaluate the DEI program nationwide. The company is required to monitor the procedures in the State to ensure that they support the evaluation. Once the State starts enrolling participants into DEI, Social Dynamic will be responsible for obtaining data extracts from the participating States and analyzing the data. The analysis by Social Dynamics will focus on determining the various outcomes of the DEI participants and assessing the net impact of the program to determine whether the participant effects are better in the pilot sites vs. the comparison sites.

The various committees (Bi-Weekly conference calls with DEI sites, the Steering Committee) continue to meet to discuss implementation of the DEI in the focus counties. The DEI is also working on awarding a bid to a vendor to provide assistive technology devices and advising to the Hawaii one-stops throughout the state.

Workforce Data Quality Initiative Grant

On July 1, The Workforce Development Council was informed that it had been awarded a \$999,200 grant to institute a Workforce Data Quality Initiative at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Hawai‘i’s Workforce Longitudinal Data System, which will be housed at DLIR, will be built to provide greater information about our workforce and its education and training. The system, called WorLDS, will result will be a new tie-in between work and education, giving the state the ability to track the supply and demand for skilled workers, to determine where new graduates, new workers, and incumbent workers are headed within Hawai‘i’s labor market. The system will also show, in a timely fashion, how certifications and degrees can reward Hawai‘i workers with higher pay.

The WDC will be working with the DLIR’s Research & Statistics office and Unemployment Insurance to initially implement WorLDS. In later phases of the project, the information will be matched with the current statewide longitudinal data system housed at the University of Hawaii to create a full vision of how residents today are served by the state’s training and educational system to develop a highly educated, highly paid workforce.

The development of WorLDS through the WDQI grant continues to add to the overall development of the statewide workforce longitudinal data system that is being jointly developed by the University of Hawaii HIPass office at P-20, the State Department of Education and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

C3T Grant

The WDC and the University of Hawaii Community College System continued contract discussions and implementation steps regarding the WDC’s role and responsibilities under the \$24.7 million grant. Duties will include the following:

1. Develop and Manage Policy Planning Workgroups;
2. Coordinate statewide recruitment and processing of 6,000 training participants for the program;
3. Expand the www.myfuturehawaii.org online portal to act as the online conduit for the proposed grant programs; and
4. Development of predictive labor market model.

The contract is expected to be executed by September 1, 2012.